



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)  
General Certificate of Education  
January 2011

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## Religious Studies

### Assessment Unit AS 8

*assessing*

An Introduction to the Study of Islam

[AR181]

FRIDAY 28 JANUARY, AFTERNOON

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#### TIME

1 hour 20 minutes.

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.  
Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.

#### INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 100.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in **all** questions.

Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

#### ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

You are advised to take account of the marks for each question or part question.

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## Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

- 1 (a) Explain the Arabian background into which the prophet Muhammad was born. [35]
- (b) Explore the claim that the main reason for the rapid spread of Islam was Muhammad's strong leadership. Justify your answer. [15]
- 2 (a) Describe and explain the nature and importance of the Qur'an, Sunnah and Hadith. [35]
- (b) Explore the view that it is only possible to submit to the Qur'an when living in a Muslim society. Justify your answer. [15]

## Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a) Explain the importance of the Pillars of Shahadah (creed) and Sawm (fasting). [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, comment on the claim that religious beliefs are meaningless without actions. Justify your answer. [15]
- 4 (a) Give an account of the celebration and symbolism of the **two** major festivals of Islam. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, comment on the importance of festivals for the religious believer in a secular age. Justify your answer. [15]

